

### **Remarks**

Claims 32-51 have been cancelled. Claims 52 and 57 of the present application have been amended to define the polymer as off-white to white in color and containing one or more metals in cationic form. New claims 58-73 have been added. Support for new claims 58-73 of the present application can be found in claims 33-49, respectively.

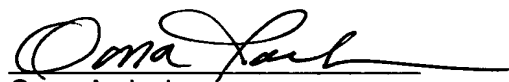
### **Election/Restriction Requirement**

Applicants wish to provisionally elect without traverse Group III, which are claims 52-56, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications pertaining to the subject matter in Groups I and II.

Entry of this Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis  
Corporate Intellectual Property  
One Health Plaza, Building 430  
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080  
(862) 778-7898

  
Oona A. Jackson  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 48,152

Date: August 17, 2004